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CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A process for preparing 4-[1-hydroxy-1-(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-N-2-(4-fluorophen-1-oxo-ethyl)piperidine comprising the steps of:
- a) 10 subjecting 4-[1-hydroxy-1-(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]pyridine to catalytic hydrogenation to provide 4-[1-hydroxy-1-(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]piperidine; and
- b) 15 reacting 4-[1-hydroxy-1-(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]piperidine with a suitable 4-fluorophenylacetylating reagent, in the presence of a suitable base and a suitable solvent to provide 4-[1-hydroxy-1-(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-N-2-(4-fluorophen-1-oxo-ethyl)piperidine.
2. A compound which is 4-[1-hydroxy-1-(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]-N-2-(4-fluorophen-1-oxo-ethyl)piperidine.

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